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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 23 January 1970

- 25X1 1. [] Received a call from Miss Diane McCormick, in the office of Representative Ken Hechler (D., W.Va.), who requested an employment interview for Mr.
- 25X1A [] After checking with Mr. [] in the Office of Personnel, I advised Miss McCormick that an appointment has been scheduled for this afternoon at 3:30. 25X1A
- 25X1 2. [] Called George Murphy, on the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and told him that the article in Sunday's New York Times about the Soviets distorting maps was essentially accurate and that I would discuss this in greater detail with him the next time I saw him.
- 25X1 3. [] Met with Messrs. John Blandford and Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel and Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, whom I briefed on:
- a. recent developments re SS-9 and SS-11;
 - b. increased infiltration rates in Vietnam;
 - c. Libya's problems in training pilots and maintenance personnel for new French aircraft;
 - d. fact that Agency had no solid information re MyLai incident;
 - e. our understanding of reorganization going on among defense intelligence agencies.
- Blandford expressed concern that we "had been caught flat-footed" by the Libyan coup (see Memo for Record).
- 25X1 4. [] Met with Ed Braswell, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, whom I briefed on recent developments regarding Soviet SS-9 and SS-11 tests and North Vietnam infiltration trends.
- Braswell said that Senator Stennis was anxious for a roundup briefing by the Agency prior to hearing from the Defense Department on 18 February. Braswell said that main interest would probably center on Soviet ICBM deployment, MRV testing, and the implications and prospects of the SALT talks.

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OLC 70-0061

23 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. John R. Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, Complaint That Agency Did Not Predict Libyan Coup

1. During our discussion today on several matters, Mr. John R. Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, complained that the Agency had apparently been caught flat-footed regarding the Libyan coup. Blandford showed me a paper signed by a member of his staff (Bill Cook) stating that [redacted] had told someone (unidentified) at a luncheon that the [redacted] had known of and warned the U.S. of the impending coup in Libya and had commented that "70 Soviet warships" were in the Eastern Mediterranean at the time. Blandford complained that if [redacted] knew about it, we should have, and even if we didn't, we should have taken [redacted] warning more seriously.

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2. I commented that:

a. In almost any 24 hour period our Commo traffic would probably contain at least a dozen rumors of impending coups, most of which never materialize.

b. While I didn't know about this particular case, after any coup all sorts of people turn up with 20-20 hindsight claiming "I told you so."

c. When a dozen or so colonels get together to plot a coup, whether in the Middle East, Latin America, or wherever, we have no way of guaranteeing that one of them will be a CIA agent, especially when we are urged by our policymakers to avoid all associations with groups and individuals suspected of intriguing against friendly regimes.

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3. However, I told Blandford I would look into the facts in this case and let him know just what [redacted] "warning" really amounted to.

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[redacted]

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig. - Subj.

1 - DDP

1 - C/NE

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